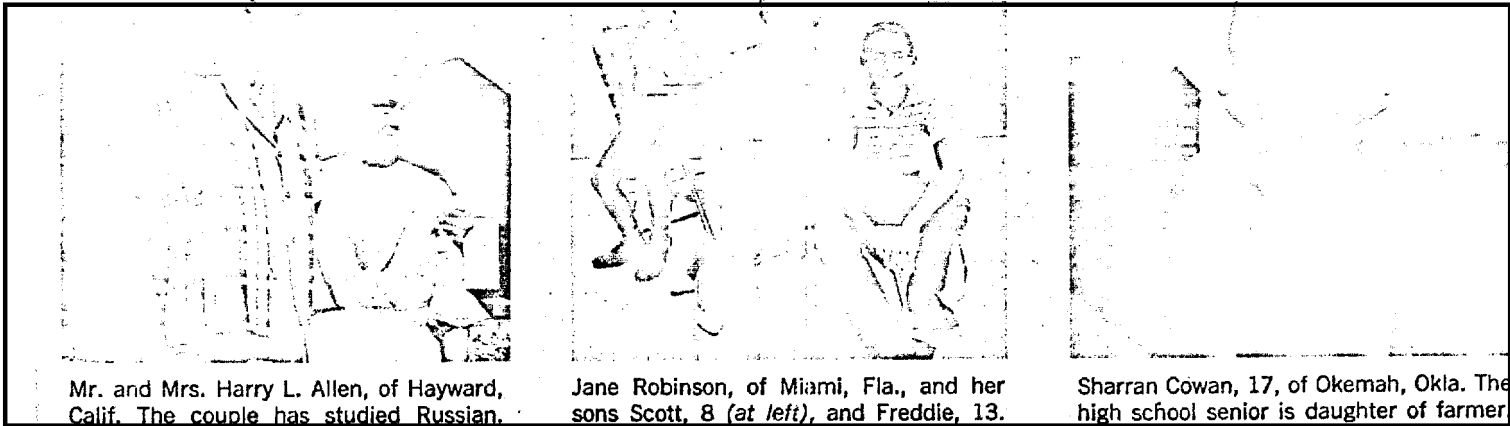


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Mr. and Mrs. Harry L. Allen, of Hayward, Calif. The couple has studied Russian.

Jane Robinson, of Miami, Fla., and her sons Scott, 8 (at left), and Freddie, 13.

Sharran Cowan, 17, of Okemah, Okla. The high school senior is daughter of farmer.

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# Peace Hostages

## THESE AMERICANS TELL WHY THEY HAVE VOLUNTEERED TO LIVE IN RUSSIA

by SID ROSS

### HOMEMADE PEACE PLAN

**T**he world is made up of little, average individuals. Working together, we can achieve world peace—if the people work for it and don't just leave it to the government."

With those words, 17-year-old Sharran Cowan, a high school senior of Okemah, Okla., explained her readiness to go to live in Russia as a "Peace Hostage."

Sharran is one of hundreds of citizens from every section of the country who have volunteered to take part in a New York advertising copywriter's ambitious plan to reduce the risk of all-annihilating nuclear war.

Energetic, red-haired Stephen (Dan) James, 39, wants up to a million Russians and Americans to change places for periods of 6 months to 2 years. He proposes they get to know and like the people of the host lands and exert their weighty influence against the amassing of nuclear armaments—and the ever-present fear that these weapons might be triggered, and countertriggered. As a further deterrent, James thinks relatives of some government officials should be included in the deal.

And it seems possible that the homemade peace plan which Dan James drafted on the kitchen table in his Bronx apartment may someday be put into effect. Already it has propelled him into conferences at the State Department and the White House in Washington and with leaders of Russian life in Moscow. And it has drawn to his special post office box (Box 2737, Grand Central Sta., N.Y. 17, N.Y.) the pledges of more than a thousand Americans that they are prepared to set up housekeeping in the Soviet Union in the interests of peace.

What makes an American feel so strongly about peace that he will pull up stakes and move thousands of miles to a strange land to help achieve it?

"I'm rather religious," Sharran Cowan relates. "Now that we've secured a Bomb that has the power to destroy mankind, we'll have to learn to use this power in God's way—to use the atom to do good, not evil; to save lives, not destroy them. I think this 'Peace Hostage' program fits into the idea of teaching all of us to understand and use this power wisely."

### TYPICAL AMERICAN SCENES

Harry L. Allen, 49, a steelworker of Hayward, Calif., and his wife Billie, 48, hope to live in their trailer in Russia if Dan James' exchange plan can gain the endorsement of the two governments. Both Mr. and Mrs. Allen, who have no children, are veterans of U.S. Navy service. In preparation for their hoped-for sojourn in the Soviet Union, they have been taking "home" movies of typical scenes from American life, which they would like to show to some of the people there.

Says Harry Allen: "A person's life, in relation to time, is just a tiny flash. If you can do one good thing in that flash that can be remembered, you've accomplished something. My wife and I might not live so comfortably there as we do here. So what? I'd be useful. I'd work as a steelworker there, exchanging places with a Russian steelworker. We'd both benefit an awful lot."

Mrs. Allen expresses her feelings:

"If civilization isn't going to regress back to the animal stage, war just has to be stopped. War in this day and age is utter insanity. Average people have to

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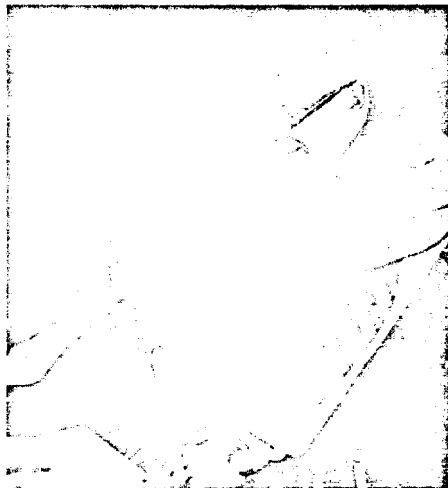
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do everything they can to stop it. That's why I'm for this 'Peace Hostage' plan. I'd even go to see Khrushchev myself, to try to stop a war from coming. The reason we signed up is that this plan will give us a chance to show Russians what America really is."

To M. James Stark, 21, a partner in a Buffalo, N.Y., auto parts business, going to the Soviet Union would "show the Russians that Americans aren't afraid to go there because they might be killed in a nuclear attack on Russia. Our very presence would show them that the U.S. isn't going to shoot off any rockets."

Dan James recently met in New York with a group of visiting members of the Soviet Peace Committee. As he has before, he pressed them to join in working out arrangements for a formal conference between negotiators for the Committee and for James' Peace Hostages Exchange Foundation. The conference, proposed for next June in Geneva, would set up a pilot exchange of 50 citizens from each country and launch studies of all problems inherent in a vast expansion of the exchanges.

James B. Donovan, attorney who negotiated the release of rebel prisoners



'Peace Hostage' originator Stephen James (right) with negotiator James B. Donovan.

by the Cuban government and the exchange of U.S. U-2 pilot Gary Powers for a Russian master spy, has agreed to be chief negotiator for the Hostages Foundation. Other leading Foundation backers include the Rev. Robert L. Pier-son, son-in-law of New York Gov. Nelson Rockefeller; Professors J. D. Singer and Anatol Rapoport, of the University of Michigan.

"As individuals, I think most of us are asleep," declares Jane Robinson, 35, of Miami, Fla., a divorcee, who will take along her two sons if she goes to Russia. "We let others do our thinking and acting for us. I feel we have to think and act for ourselves and in the process also set some kind of example for our children to really *prove* to them that we mean what we say we believe in."

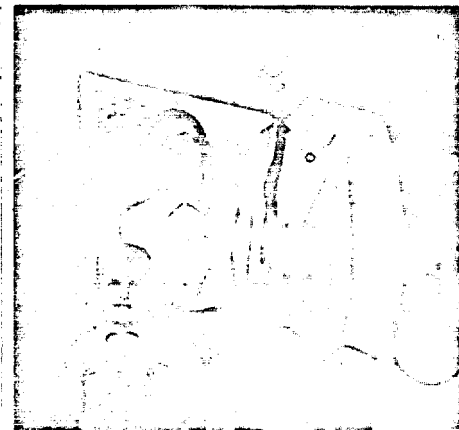
"Some people salve their consciences by giving money. But here, by placing yourself on the line, you are contributing your life and your efforts, and not merely your checkbook."

#### FELLOWSHIP & HUMANITY

B. James Raz, 36, of Huntington, N.Y., is a physicist associated with the State University of New York at Stony Brook and the Brookhaven, N.Y., and Argonne, Ill., National Laboratories. He, his wife Maxine, 35, and their two young sons are ready to pull up stakes and go to Russia. Raz explains:

"To me, this is an idea whereby we could extend our concept of love and fellowship and humanity to Russia."

"The 'hot line' between Moscow and Washington was an excellent idea for keeping lines of communications open between the heads of state of both our countries. It seems to me the 'Peace Hostage' program is an excellent idea to keep lines of communication open between ordinary citizens."



B. James Raz, his wife Maxine, their sons Jeffrey, 6 (at left), and Jonathan, 7.